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DISTRIBUTION II

†PM-CASEY;400
†WITH PM-HAIG BJT
†CASEY CONFIRMATION AS CIA CHIEF EXPECTED
†EDS: HEARING BEGINS 10 A.M. EST; PRENOON TOP EXPECTED
†BY MIKE SHANAHAN
†ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - WILLIAM J. CASEY, AN ADMINISTRATOR WITH A BACKGROUND IN BOTH POLITICS AND INTELLIGENCE, IS UNDERGOING SENATE SCRUTINY AS RONALD REAGAN'S CHOICE TO HEAD THE CIA.

FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF REAGAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, CASEY, 67, WAS CALLED TO TESTIFY TODAY BEFORE THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND CONFIRMATION OF HIS NOMINATION WITHOUT MAJOR CONTROVERSY.

SENATE SOURCES SAID MONDAY THAT CASEY HAS IMPRESSED BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ON THE COMMITTEE WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIA AND ITS PROBLEMS.

WHEN CRITICS OF REAGAN'S CABINET SELECTIONS SUGGEST THAT TOO MANY OF THE NOMINEES WORKED FOR FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON, CASEY IS AMONG THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE IN MIND.

AFTER MAKING HIS REPUTATION AND FORTUNE AS A NEW YORK LAWYER, CASEY WORKED UNDER NIXON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND HEAD OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

CASEY IS DESCRIBED BY ASSOCIATES AS A PRAGMATIC, DECISIVE AND TOUGH-MINDED VETERAN OF FOUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHO BEGAN HIS CAREER DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE CIA'S FORERUNNER, THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES.

AS CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE FOR EUROPEAN OPERATIONS, CASEY WAS IN THE MIDST OF SOME OF THE MOST CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OF THE WAR.

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